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lief is that we have in our National Congress a body "well adapted to devise laws of order best suited to every exigency that can arise in a deliberative assembly." Let us therefore adopt home practice and procedure, he says—especially if thereby parliamentary rulings in different states may be at one, and the business of national conventions be transacted "with ease, rapidity, and mutual understanding." Most certainly, let us!—if such adoption will lead to such results.

The compiler has aimed to give "a complete system of rules", deduced from House and Senate practice, "adequate for the governing of any assembly". That is a large task to essay, and only after many tests can it be determined whether he has been completely successful; for the curious and kinky parliamentary questions and complications which may arise in long and perhaps fierce discussions, no man can foresee.

Perhaps the best purpose the book will subserve will be as a book of reference in disputed cases—to settle the question of congressional usage. To such reference-use, an admirable table of motions and their applicability or non-applicability, an alphabetical arrangement of topics, a full-faced bringing out of the salient thought of each paragraph, and a citation of the best authorities in a few mooted points—all conduce. In brief, a handy book to go with, and stay by, the parliamentarian or presiding officer.

*W. K. Wickes*

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*Cornelii Taciti Dialogus De Oratoribus.* A revised text with introductory essays and critical and explanatory notes. By W. PETERSON, M. A., LL. D. pp. xci+119. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1893.

The scholarship, painstaking, and good judgment of the editor, combined with the liberality of the publisher, make this book a worthy presentation of one of the most interesting specimens of Latin literature.

In his introduction the editor gives an exhaustive discussion of the problems connected with the dialogue, a discussion whose thoroughness, clearness, and value make it a model for this kind of work.

The introductory essays, which occupy nearly one-half the volume, treat of the following subjects:—authorship and date, the substance and scheme of the dialogue, the interlocutors and their parts, the style and language, the manuscripts. To these are added a bibliography of the subject, comprising about fifty dissertations. While giving a *résumé* of the various opinions concerning the first subject and stating fairly the opposing views, the editor has little doubt in assigning the authorship to Tacitus and

the time of writing as about 84-85; and the grounds for these opinions are well presented.

While this book is far removed from the ordinary text-book and is better adapted for the use of scholars than of beginners, yet it may be recommended to teachers in secondary schools and to undergraduate college students. It may bring into the humdrum of their common round a quickening breath, and open an inspiring glimpse into a higher realm of scholarship.

Wm. M. Aber

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*Introduction to Theme-Writing.* By J. B. FLETCHER and G. R. CARPENTER. Boston: Allyn & Bacon.

The first thing to note about this eminently clear and practical little book is the indication it furnishes of the immense advance in the teaching of English composition. There are no lists of graduated and classified themes, such as characterized the old-fashioned text-books. Nothing at all is said about writing those nondescript things called "compositions", which used to have confessedly no further significance than to be occasions for the correction of grammar, spelling, and choice of words. Instead of being directed to grind out these things the student is here set at real literary tasks, forms of composition such as the best writers cultivate, methods that obtain in the highest enterprises of literature, ways of working such as, once mastered, will never cease to be practical. In this there is great advantage. If the student must "go through the motions" of composition, as of course he must, there is great stimulus in his undertaking from the outset work that he may recognize as real and that he may compare at every step with the literature of books and magazines.

Following this principle of practical literary work, the book takes up the usual rhetorical forms, letter-writing, translation, description, narration, criticism, exposition, argument, defining under each various procedures and methods, illustrating copiously from literature, and appending numerous exercises both critical and constructive. The definitions are for the most part clear; some of them very felicitous. About the whole book is that air of freshness and interest which comes from individual study and testing of the various procedures, and which cannot be imparted to a mere traditional rhetoric.

Well adapted to the students for whom it is intended, namely the lower classes in college, the book contemplates a grade of work and literary discrimination a little too advanced for high-school students, though these may well profit by many things in it.

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